during 1999-2000 onwards. The performance under the programme in the State, viewed in this context is, on the whole, satisfactory.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Opening balance	Allocation (C + S)	Release (C + S)	Total availability	Funds utilised	% utilisation
1997-98	1694.46	6389.03	6905.19	8599.65	5546.71	64.50
1998-99	1070.03	8357.73	18890.35	19960.38	10967.57	54.95
1999-2000*	4172.01	7098.69	3549.26	7721.27	5392.09	69.83

*Release/utilisation upto Jan., 2000.

(c) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), which was the single largest wage employment programme, has been restructured, streamlined and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with effect from 01-4-1999. The primary objective of JGSY is creation of need-based rural infrastructure as against creation of wage employment under erstwhile JRY. The program is implemented by Village Panchayats to whom funds are released through DRDAs/Zilla Parishads. The Village Panchayats have the sole authority for preparation of Annual Action Plan and its implementation with the approval of Gram Sabha.

Barren Land in the Country

†4099. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of acres of land is lying barren in the country;

(b) whether Government have any effective scheme or programme to convert the barren land into agricultural land;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The process of soil erosion and land degradation resulting into degraded lands including barren lands occur due to faulty cultivation practices, underutilization of land resources, deterioration due to lack of appropriate soil & water management, natural and environmental causes etc. Currently no specific programme is under implementation for conversion of barren land into agricultural land. However the main programmes/schemes for tackling this situation, having components to develop/reclaim such problem lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands into productive use are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Details of Project Implemented by Various Central Ministries/ Department

1. Ministry of Rural Development

(i) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

(ii) Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET)

(iii) Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS)

(iv) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

(v) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

2. Ministry of Agriculture

(i) Soil conservation for enhancing the productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVPs) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)

(ii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS)

(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in North Eastern States.

3. Ministry of Water Resources

(i) Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas under Command Area Development Programme (CADP)

4. Ministry of Environment & Forests

(i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project (IAEP)

(ii) Area Oriented Fuel wood and Fodder Projects (AOFFP)

(iii) Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Afforestation and Tree Planting

ARWSP in Orissa

4100. SHRI R. MARGABANDU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to waive the matching contribution under State sector Minimum Need Programme (MNP) for availing Central assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in view of serious financial stringency of Government of Orissa due to recent super cyclone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Restructuring of Self-Employment Programmes

4101. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to restructure the self-employment programme with the aim of sustainable income generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the implementation and progress of IRDP and DWCRA schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;